



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH – GOVERNOR

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CONTACTS:

Abby Ottenhoff	312/814.3158
Rebecca Rausch	217/782.7355
Gerardo Cardenas	312/814.3158
Kendall Marlowe (DCFS)	312/814.6847

Gov. Blagojevich appoints Erwin McEwen as Illinois Director of Children and Family Services

Governor also names Velma Williams as Assistant Director of the Department of Children and Family Services

SPRINGFIELD– Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today officially appointed Erwin McEwen as the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), pending Senate confirmation. McEwen has been the Acting Director of DCFS since November of last year.

“I appreciate the remarkable work Erwin has accomplished since taking over as Acting Director of DCFS. He has been instrumental in making sure the department is focused on protecting children in the state’s care. I am pleased to name him as the official Director so that he can continue working hard for the children who need DCFS’ assistance,” said Gov. Blagojevich.

McEwen joined DCFS as Deputy Director for Monitoring and Quality Assurance in 2003. Previously, he served as Child Welfare Administrator at Lakeside Community Committee, where he oversaw the organization’s four core direct service programs, including foster care, extended family support services and pregnant and parenting teen services.

McEwen has also served as a member of the Illinois Statewide Foster Parent Advisory Council, the Illinois Child Care Association Board of Directors, the Child Welfare Advisory Committee on Performance-Based Contracting, and the African American Family Commission’s Monitoring and Oversight Committee. He has over 20 years of experience in providing social services to youth and families in the State of Illinois.

“I am committed to the well being and safety of Illinois’ children. I thank Gov. Blagojevich for giving me the opportunity to further help make a difference for children who really need somebody in their corner,” said McEwen.

Governor Blagojevich also appointed Velma Williams as Assistant Director of DCFS. In this role, Ms. Williams will work with Director McEwen to formulate, develop and manage policies, practices and programs relative to the delivery of client services. She will represent the

Department in internal and external matters and provide input into the development of future initiatives and the direction of Department operations.

“I am excited to work with Governor Blagojevich and Director McEwen on behalf of the State’s most vulnerable population: our children. I hope we can continue to work aggressively on implementing new initiatives and programs that will benefit the state of Illinois,” said Williams.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Williams served as the Deputy Director of Clinical Services at DCFS where she oversaw the delivery of clinical services and the adherence to best practices in child welfare social work for children in state care and the professional staff that support them. Additionally, Ms. Williams administered the Office of Training and Development. She has also served on several Illinois Governor's Office Boards and Commissions including Sex Offender Management Board and the Illinois Task Force on Mental Health.

For over 25 years, Ms. Williams has dedicated herself to serving families in the metropolitan Chicago area. With a specialization in child maltreatment, she has worked as a protective social worker, clinician, and social work supervisor for the state of Illinois, private agencies, and major Chicago area hospitals.